

John 11:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

Analysis

Jesus' promise 'Thy brother shall rise again' is deliberately ambiguous, capable of two interpretations: general resurrection at the last day, or immediate resurrection. This ambiguity tests Martha's faith and understanding. Christ's words are absolutely true either way, demonstrating how divine truth operates on multiple levels. The promise's openness draws out Martha's theology (v. 24) before revealing fuller truth. This pedagogical method develops faith through progressive revelation.

Historical Context

Resurrection hope was debated in first-century Judaism. Pharisees affirmed it (Acts 23:8), while Sadducees denied it. Jesus' statement engages this theological landscape.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' ambiguous promise test and develop Martha's faith?

2. What does this teach about God's promises operating beyond our initial understanding?
3. In what ways do partial revelations prepare us for fuller truth?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	αὐτῇ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	Ἀναστήσεται	ὁ	ἀδελφός	σου
saith	unto her	G3588	Jesus	shall rise again	G3588	brother	Thy
G3004	G846		G2424	G450		G80	G4675

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